

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /032 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2361

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW, US

SUBJECT: ROC REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S INAUGURAL SPEECH

1. PRESIDENT CARTER'S INAUGURAL SPEECH WAS GIVEN BANNER-HEADLINE TREATMENT IN THE LOCAL PRESS. EDITORIAL COMMENT FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS CONCERNING FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS. EDITORIALS SUGGESTED THAT IN VIEW OF THESE PRINCIPLES, THE U.S. SHOULD EMPHASIZE ITS RELATIONS WITH FREE WORLD NATIONS AND END DETENTE AND NORMALIZATION POLICIES WITH USSR AND PRC RESPECTIVELY.

2. JANUARY 23 WORLD FREEDOM DAY RALLY IN TAIPEI PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SEMI-OFFICIAL EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR AND INTERPRETATION OF THE INAUGURAL SPEECH. THE WORLD FREEDOM DAY RALLY DECLARATION STATED THAT "THE DISTINCT SOUND OF THE WORLD FREEDOM DAY BELL AND THE ROAR OF PEOPLE EVERYWHERE CALLING FOR THE WINNING AND SAFEGUARDING OF FREEDOM WILL KEEP THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION VIGILANTLY AWAKE FOR THE THOROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOFTY PRINCIPLE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ADVANCED IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS."

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3. THE RALLY ALSO REPORTEDLY SENT A CABLE TO PRESIDENT CARTER ENDORSING THE "MORAL PRINCIPLE (HE) ADVANCED FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS," HIS STAND FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY, HIS DETERMINATION TO FREE MANKIND FROM THREATS, AND HIS "EMPHASIS THAT AMERICANS CAN NEVER BE INDIFFERENT TO THE FATE OF FREEDOM."

4. ON A MORE CAUTIOUS NOTE, THE CHUNGK KUO SHIH PAO IN A COMMENTARY ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICIES NOTED PARENTHETICALLY THAT CARTER'S "MORAL FOREIGN POLICY" WAS AIMED AT QUESTIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND NOT AT QUESTIONS OF MAINTAINING COMMITMENTS TO OTHER COUNTRIES. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT ROC AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. SHEN CHIEN-HUNG MADE A SIMILAR STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATIVE YUAN DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO TAIWAN.)

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Message Attributes

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